



Summer Reading

Upper School | 2022

McCALLIE
— HONOR TRUTH DUTY —



Dear Students,

There is nothing like the summer to enjoy a different pace of life and to find time to grab a book of interest and enjoy a sunny afternoon outside somewhere with no other pressures. Particularly in today's unusual world, diving into a great story can provide a wonderful escape. We have some great books for you to choose from this summer!

Enjoy the reading.

Mr. McCallie

Dean of Faculty and Curriculum, Upper School



FAQs



How many books do I have to read?

9th-11th graders will read 2 books, one from the “school-wide list” and one from the grade specific list. 12th graders will read 1 book from the school-wide list.



Can I choose a book that I have already read?

Please choose a book that you have never read before.



How does sign-up work?

There are no sign-ups required. Simply choose from the lists and get reading!



Am I allowed to read my book(s) on an eReader [Kindle, iPad, Nook, etc.]?

Absolutely!



Can I listen to the audio-book version of one or more of my books?

Yes, but you must read along as you listen.



Can I borrow my book from the local library or read from an online library?

Yes! You will not have to have your book with you in August, so feel free to check a book out from the library in order to read.



I have another question about summer reading. What should I do?

Contact Mr. McCallie at mccallie@mccallie.org

All Students

All rising 9th-12th graders will choose ONE of the five offered selections for the “school-wide books”.

These were selected by student and faculty vote this spring. Students will meet by advisory groups in early August to discuss themes that cross over all the five school-wide selections. Students who demonstrate they have read one of the books (by quiz, discussion, or other method announced later) will gain the privilege of applying a 1/3 of a letter grade bump to the first grading period for a class of their choice. The grade will impact that grading period only.

In addition, Rising 9th- 11th graders will choose a second book from a list specific to each grade level. Rising 12th graders will focus on college counseling so will not have to read a second book.

Rising 9th graders will choose a book from 5–7 selections chosen by 9th grade English teachers. Not all 9th graders will read the same book. Those teachers will then follow up in their English classes via a paper assignment, discussion process, etc.

Rising 10th graders will choose a book from 5–7 selections chosen by 10th grade English teachers. Not all 10th graders will read the same book. Those teachers will then follow up in their English classes via a paper assignment, discussion process, etc.

Rising 11th graders will choose a book from 5–7 selections chosen by US History teachers. Not all 11th graders will read the same book. Those teachers will then follow up in their classes via a paper assignment, discussion process, etc.

All Students

The five school-wide offerings from which to choose are:



Things Fall Apart

by Chinua Achebe

Fiction

ISBN-13: 978-0385474542

Okonkwo is the greatest wrestler and warrior alive, and his fame spreads throughout West Africa like a bush-fire in the harmattan. But when he accidentally kills a clansman, things begin to fall apart. Then Okonkwo returns from exile to find missionaries and

colonial governors have arrived in the village. With his world thrown radically off-balance he can only hurtle towards tragedy. *Things Fall Apart* is the first of three novels in Chinua Achebe's critically acclaimed African Trilogy. It is a classic narrative about Africa's cataclysmic encounter with Europe as it establishes a colonial presence on the continent. Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, *Things Fall Apart* explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order.



The Midnight Library

by Matt Haig

Fiction

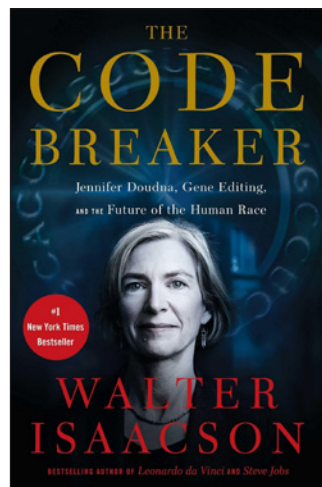
ISBN-13: 978-0525559474

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a

different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?

In *The Midnight Library*, Matt Haig's enchanting blockbuster novel, Nora Seed finds herself faced with this decision. Faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist; she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

All Students



The Code Breaker

by Walter Isaacson

Nonfiction – Science

ISBN-13: 978-1982115852

In the spring of 2012, the Berkeley biochemist Jennifer Doudna and her collaborators turned a curiosity of nature into an invention that will transform the future of the human race: an easy-to-use tool that can edit DNA.

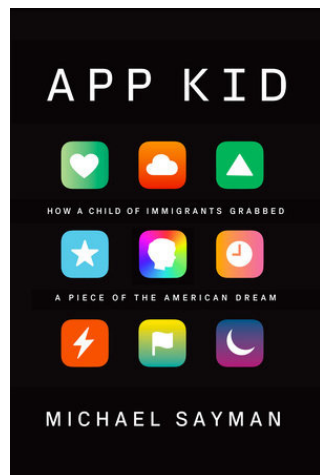
Known as CRISPR, it opened a

brave new world of medical miracles and moral questions. It has already been deployed to cure deadly diseases, fight the coronavirus pandemic of 2020, and make inheritable changes in the genes of babies.

Should we use our new evolution-hacking powers to make us less susceptible to viruses and eliminate dreaded disorders? What a wonderful boon that would be! Right? And what about preventing congenital deafness or blindness? Or being very short? Or being depressed? Hmmm...How should we think about that? Should we allow parents, if they can afford it, to enhance the IQ or height or memory or muscles of their kids?

After helping to discover CRISPR, Doudna became a leader in wrestling with these moral and policy issues. Her life story illustrates that the key to innovation is connecting basic science to our everyday lives—moving discoveries from our labs to our bedsides—in ways that respect our moral values. It's a thrilling detective tale that involves the most profound wonders of nature, from the origins of life to the future of our species.

All Students



App Kid: How a Child of Immigrants Grabbed a Piece of the American Dream

by Michael Sayman

Nonfiction – Memoir

ISBN-13: 978-0525656197

As his parents watched their restaurant business collapse in the wake of the Great Recession, Michael Sayman was googling “how to code.” Within a year, he had

launched an iPhone app that was raking in thousands of dollars a month, enough to keep his family afloat—and in America.

Entirely self-taught, Sayman headed from high school straight into the professional world, and by the time he was seventeen, he was Facebook’s youngest employee ever, building new features that wowed its founder Mark Zuckerberg and are now being used by more than half a billion people every day. Sayman pushed Facebook to build its own version of Snapchat’s Stories and, as a result, engagement on the platform soared across all demographics. Millions of Gen Z and Millennials flocked to Facebook, and as teen engagement rose dramatically on Instagram and WhatsApp, Snapchat’s parent company

suffered a billion-dollar loss in value. Three years later, Sayman jumped ship for Google.

App Kid is the galvanizing story of a young Latino, not yet old enough to drink, who excelled in the cutthroat world of Silicon Valley and went on to become an inspiration to thousands of kids everywhere by following his own surprising, extraordinary path. In this candid and uplifting memoir, Sayman shares the highs and lows, the successes and failures, of his remarkable journey. His book is essential and affirming reading for anyone marching to the beat of their own drum.

All Students



Project Hail Mary

by Andy Weir

Fiction – Sci Fiction

ISBN-13: 978-0593135204

Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission—and if he fails, humanity and the earth itself will perish. Except that right now, he doesn't know that.

He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete

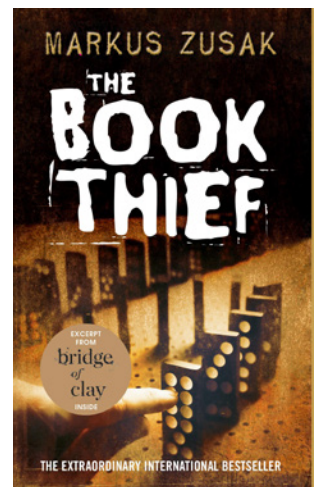
it. All he knows is that he's been asleep for a very, very long time. And he's just been awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two corpses for company. His crewmates dead, his memories fuzzily returning, Ryland realizes that an impossible task now confronts him. Hurtling through space on this tiny ship, it's up to him to puzzle out an impossible scientific mystery—and conquer an extinction-level threat to our species. And with the clock ticking down and the nearest human being light-years away, he's got to do it all alone. Or does he?

An irresistible interstellar adventure as only Andy Weir could deliver, *Project Hail Mary* is a tale of discovery, speculation, and survival to rival *The Martian*—while taking us to places it never dreamed of going.

Rising 9th Grade

In addition to a book from the “school-wide” selection, all rising 9th grade students should also choose ONE book from the list below to read prior to the first day of classes.

Students will rely on their chosen book to complete an assignment in their 9th grade English class as determined by their teacher. It might be a baseline writing essay, a source of themes for discussion, etc.



The Book Thief

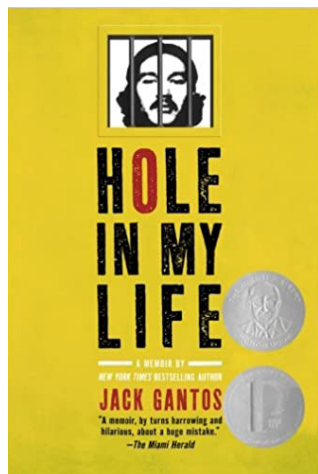
by Markus Zusak

ISBN-13: 978-0375842207

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still.

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

Rising 9th Grade



Hole in My Life

by Jack Gantos

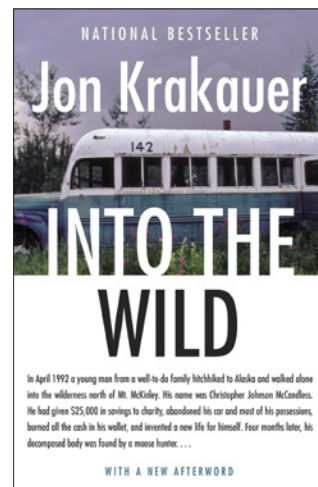
ISBN-13: 978-0312641573

In the summer of 1971, Jack Gantos was an aspiring writer looking for adventure, cash for college tuition, and a way out of a dead-end job. For ten thousand dollars, he recklessly agreed to help sail a sixty-foot yacht loaded with a ton of hashish from the Virgin Islands to New York City, where he and his partners sold the drug until

federal agents caught up with them. For his part in the conspiracy, Gantos was sentenced to serve up to six years in prison.

In *Hole in My Life*, this prizewinning author of over thirty books for young people confronts the period of struggle and confinement that marked the end of his own youth. On the surface, the narrative tumbles from one crazed moment to the next as Gantos pieces together the story of his restless final year of high school, his short-lived career as a criminal, and his time in prison.

But running just beneath the action is the story of how Gantos—once he was locked up in a small, yellow-walled cell—moved from wanting to be a writer to writing, and how dedicating himself more fully to the thing he most wanted to do helped him endure and ultimately overcome the worst experience of his life.



Into The Wild

by Jon Krakauer

ISBN-13: 978-0385486804

In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and

invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. How McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of *Into the Wild*.

Jon Krakauer constructs a clarifying prism through which he reassembles the disquieting facts of McCandless's short life. Admitting an interest that borders on obsession, he searches for the clues to the drives and desires that propelled McCandless. Digging deeply, he takes an inherently compelling mystery and unravels the larger riddles it holds: the profound pull of the American wilderness on our imagination; the allure of high-risk activities to young men of a certain cast of mind; the complex, charged bond between fathers and sons.

Rising 9th Grade



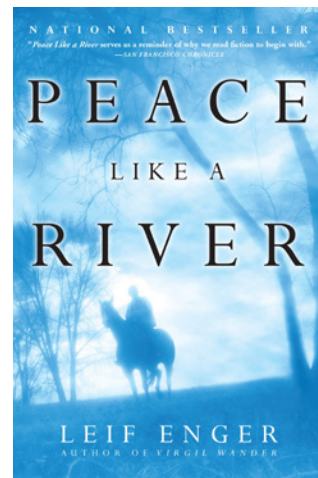
The Nightingale

by Kristin Hannah

ISBN-13: 978-1250080400

France, 1939 - In the quiet village of Carriveau, Vianne Mauriac says goodbye to her husband, Antoine, as he heads for the Front. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France ... but invade they do, in droves of marching soldiers, in caravans of trucks and tanks, in planes that fill the skies and drop

bombs upon the innocent. When a German captain requisitions Vianne's home, she and her daughter must live with the enemy or lose everything. Without food or money or hope, as danger escalates all around them, she is forced to make one impossible choice after another to keep her family alive.



Peace Like a River

by Leif Enger

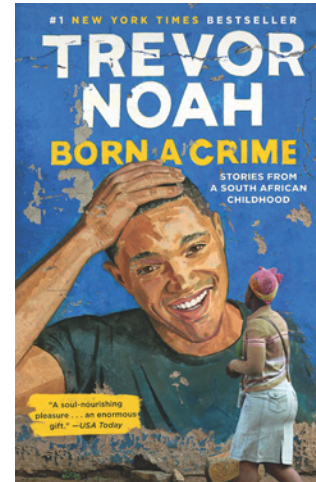
ISBN-13: 978-0802139252

Leif Enger's best-selling debut is at once a heroic quest, a tragedy, and a love story in which "what could be unbelievable becomes extraordinary" (Miami Herald). Enger brings us eleven-year-old Reuben Land, an asthmatic boy in the Midwest who has reason to believe in miracles. Along with his sister and father, Reuben finds himself on a cross-country search for his outlaw older brother who has been charged with murder. Their journey unfolds like a revelation, and its conclusion shows how family, love, and faith can stand up to the most terrifying of enemies, and the most tragic of fates.

Rising 10th Grade

In addition to a book from the “school-wide” selection, all rising 10th grade students should also choose ONE book from the list below to read prior to the first day of classes.

Students will rely on their chosen book to complete an assignment in their 10th grade English class as determined by their teacher. It might be a baseline writing essay, a source of themes for discussion, etc.



Born a Crime

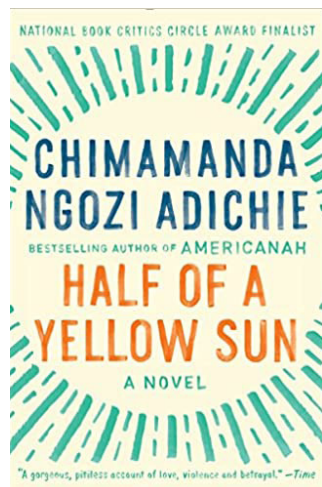
by Trevor Noah

ISBN-13: 978-0525509028

Trevor Noah’s unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents’ indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa’s tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man’s relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

Rising 10th Grade



Half of a Yellow Sun

by Chimamanda Adichie

ISBN-13: 978-1400095209

With effortless grace, celebrated author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie illuminates a seminal moment in modern African history: Biafra's impassioned struggle to establish an independent republic in southeastern Nigeria during the late 1960s. We experience this tumultuous decade alongside five

unforgettable characters: Ugwu, a thirteen-year-old houseboy who works for Odenigbo, a university professor full of revolutionary zeal; Olanna, the professor's beautiful young mistress who has abandoned her life in Lagos for a dusty town and her lover's charm; and Richard, a shy young Englishman infatuated with Olanna's willful twin sister Kainene. *Half of a Yellow Sun* is a tremendously evocative novel of the promise, hope, and disappointment of the Biafran war.



Homegoing

by Yaa Gyasi

ISBN-13: 978-1101971062

Ghana, eighteenth century: two half sisters are born into different villages, each unaware of the other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the palatial rooms of the Cape Coast Castle. The other will be captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned in the very same castle, and sold into slavery.

Homegoing follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem. Yaa Gyasi's extraordinary novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed—and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation.

Rising 10th Grade



A Thousand Splendid Suns

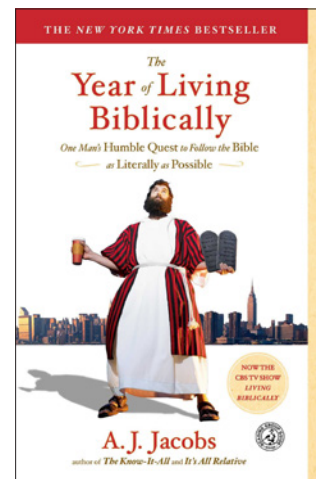
by Khaled Hosseini

ISBN-13: 978-0739489505

Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them—in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul—they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters

and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival.

A stunning accomplishment, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a haunting, heartbreaking, compelling story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship, and an indestructible love.



A Year of Living Biblically

by A.J. Jacobs

ISBN-13: 978-0743291484

Raised in a secular family but increasingly interested in the relevance of faith in our modern world, A.J. Jacobs decides to dive in headfirst and attempt to obey the Bible as literally as possible for one full year. He vows to follow the Ten Commandments. To be fruitful and multiply. To love his neighbor.

But also to obey the hundreds of less publicized rules: to avoid wearing clothes made of mixed fibers; to play a ten-string harp; to stone adulterers.

The resulting spiritual journey is at once funny and profound, reverent and irreverent, personal and universal and will make you see history's most influential book with new eyes.

Rising 11th Grade

In addition to a book from the “school-wide” selection, all rising 11th grade students should also choose ONE book from the list below to read prior to the first day of classes.

Students will rely on their chosen book to complete an assignment in their 11th grade US History class as determined by their teacher. It might be a baseline writing essay, a source of themes for discussion, etc.

Note: Students taking AP/Honors US History should choose one of the last 3 (Zinn, Meacham, Goodwin). Students taking General US History can choose any of the six books.



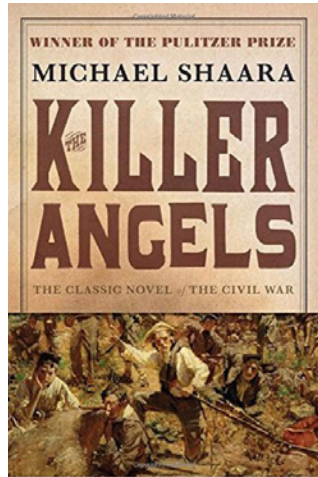
March (Trilogy)

by John Lewis

ISBN-13: 978-1603093958

Discover the inside story of the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of one of its most iconic figures, Congressman John Lewis. *March* is the award-winning, #1 bestselling graphic novel trilogy recounting his life in the movement, co-written with Andrew Aydin and drawn by Nate Powell. This commemorative set contains all three volumes of *March* in a beautiful slipcase.

Rising 11th Grade



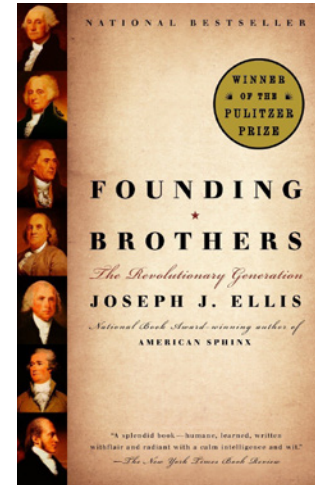
The Killer Angels

by Michael Shaara

ISBN-13: 978-0345407276

In the four most bloody and courageous days of our nation's history, two armies fought for two conflicting dreams. One dreamed of freedom, the other of a way of life. Far more than rifles and bullets were carried into battle. There were memories. There were promises.

There was love. And far more than men fell on those Pennsylvania fields. Bright futures, untested innocence, and pristine beauty were also the casualties of war. Michael Shaara's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece is unique, sweeping, unforgettable—the dramatic story of the battleground for America's destiny.



Founding Brothers

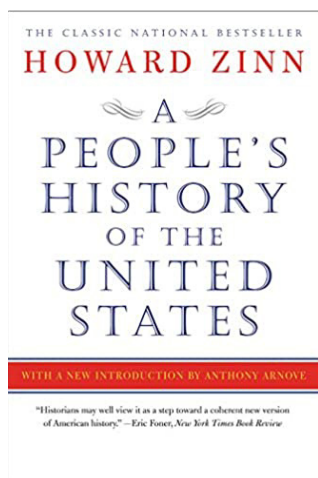
by Joseph Ellis

ISBN-13: 978-0375705243

The United States was more a fragile hope than a reality in 1790. During the decade that followed, the Founding Fathers—re-examined here as Founding Brothers—combined the ideals of the Declaration of Independence with the content of the Constitution to create the practical workings of our government. Through an analysis of six fascinating episodes—Hamilton and Burr's deadly duel, Washington's precedent-setting Farewell Address, Adams' administration and political partnership with his wife, the debate about where to place the capital, Franklin's attempt to force Congress to confront the issue of slavery and Madison's attempts to block him, and Jefferson and Adams' famous correspondence—*Founding Brothers* brings to life the vital issues and personalities from the most important decade in our nation's history.

Rising 11th Grade

Students taking AP or Honors U.S. History should read one of the following three books:



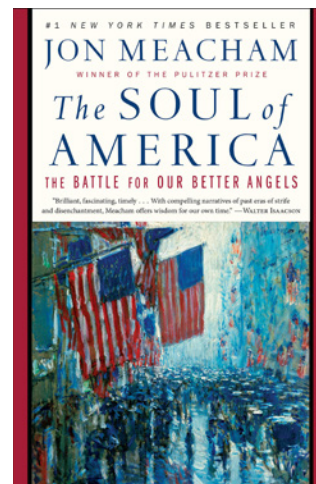
A People's History of the United States

by Howard Zinn

ISBN-13: 978-0062397348

Known for its lively, clear prose as well as its scholarly research, *A People's History of the United States* is the only volume to tell America's story from the point of view of—and in the words of—America's women, factory workers, African-Americans,

Native Americans, the working poor, and immigrant laborers. As historian Howard Zinn shows, many of our country's greatest battles—the fights for a fair wage, an eight-hour workday, child-labor laws, health and safety standards, universal suffrage, women's rights, racial equality—were carried out at the grassroots level, against bloody resistance.



The Soul of America

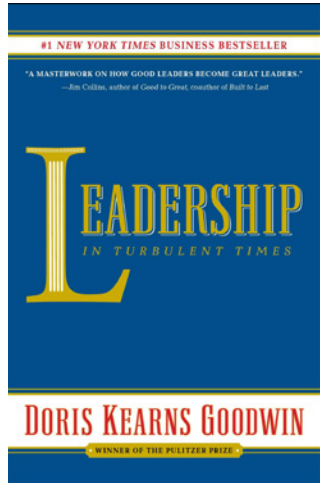
by Jon Meacham

ISBN-13: 978-0399589829

While the American story has not always—or even often—been heroic, we have been sustained by a belief in progress even in the gloomiest of times. In this inspiring book, Meacham reassures us, “The good news is that we have come through such darkness before”—as, time and again, Lincoln’s better

angels have found a way to prevail.... He writes about the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the birth of the Lost Cause; the backlash against immigrants in the First World War and the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s; the fight for women’s rights; the demagoguery of Huey Long and Father Coughlin and the isolationist work of America First in the years before World War II; the anti-Communist witch-hunts led by Senator Joseph McCarthy; and Lyndon Johnson’s crusade against Jim Crow. Each of these dramatic hours in our national life have been shaped by the contest to lead the country to look forward rather than back, to assert hope over fear—a struggle that continues even now.

Rising 11th Grade



Leadership in Turbulent Times

by Doris Kearns Goodwin

ISBN-13: 978-1476795935

Doris Kearns Goodwin draws upon the four presidents she has studied most closely—Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Lyndon B. Johnson (in civil rights)—to show how they recognized leadership

qualities within themselves and were recognized as leaders by others. By looking back to their first entries into public life, we encounter them at a time when their paths were filled with confusion, fear, and hope.

Leadership tells the story of how they all collided with dramatic reversals that disrupted their lives and threatened to shatter forever their ambitions. Nonetheless, they all emerged fitted to confront the contours and dilemmas of their times. At their best, all four were guided by a sense of moral purpose. At moments of great challenge, they were able to summon their talents to enlarge the opportunities and lives of others. Does the leader make the times or do the times make the leader?

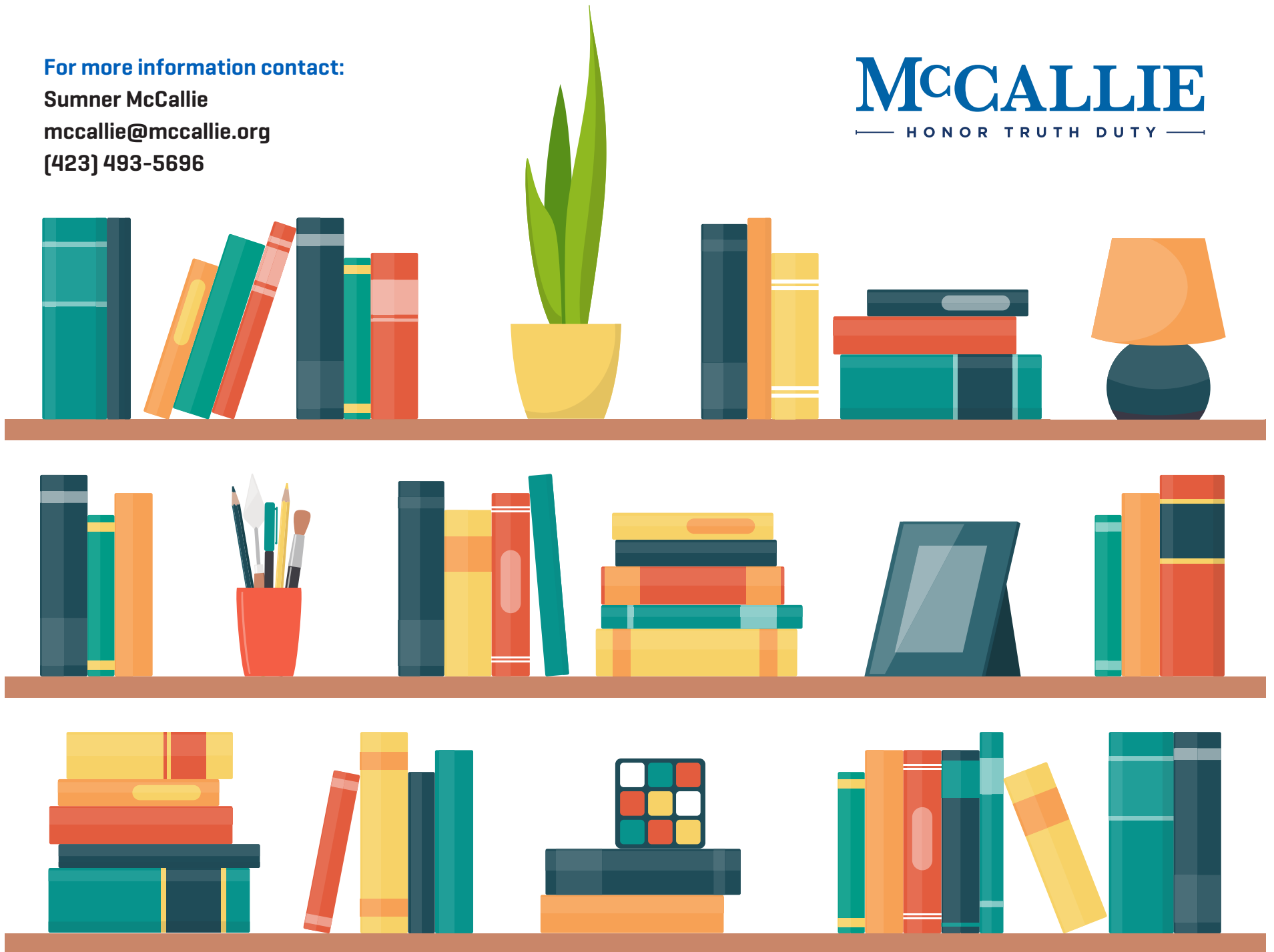
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